South Mesa LTVA Solar Power Installation

Need

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 3,500 acre South Mesa Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA), located within the Imperial Dam Recreation Area, provides long term camping opportunities for recreational vehicle campers from September through April. Approximately 65,000 people utilize this recreation site throughout the year. The South Mesa LTVA Solar Power Installation project will provide solar power systems at locations within the LTVA that support day and night operations at the site for water, wastewater, comfort stations, area lighting, caretaker and host sites. The site currently has limited solar capabilities, and the existing solar system is antiquated and inefficient. The systems will be sized using net-zero energy principles and will connect to the existing utility grid through the electrical service meter at locations where feasible. The initial construction schedule estimate begins March 2010 and ends June 2010.



Though specific areas will be restricted while under construction, the South Mesa LTVA will remain accessible throughout the project. Minimal electrical service interruptions will be expected at project completion for system start up and testing routines.

Recovery Act Funding

Information about the funding allocated for this BLM-Arizona American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project will be released after the contract has been awarded. This project will be completed with a construction contract that will also include the Senator Wash Reservoir Boat Ramp and Squaw Lake Campground solar projects.



Benefits

This project promotes the use of a renewable energy source at a federal recreation site and addresses safety for night time use. This project will also greatly decrease the dependency of this site on the electric grid.

More Information

For more information about this BLM ARRA project, contact Britt Bowen, District Engineer, at 928-505-1305 or Britt_Bowen@blm.gov.